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To: Microsoft ATR

Date: 11/21/01 11:15am

Subject: Bad settlement

It seems to me that the remedy (requiring Microsoft to furnish underserved schools with PC hardware and software) actually helps Microsoft. Similar to the monopoly Microsoft already enjoys with its operating system defacto installed on new computers, Microsoft's "gift" to underserved students not only is good PR for the company, but a way to corral in a whole new generation of users and consumers. While perhaps better than no computers at all, giving these kids a Microsoft desktop will brainwash the kids into believing Microsoft is the only choice. Instead, Microsoft should be required to provide techincal grants to the schools so that they can choose the software and hardware they want, be it Linux, Apple, Microsoft, etc. Letting Microsoft "donate" their software ensures that they will reap the rewards from future upgrades. This is no punishment at all for their anticompetitive policies. Contrary to their PR, Microsoft does not make efficient, lean, and troublefree products which can withstand free competition. They run the industry and force us to use their software by swallowing and/or pillaging the competition. The saddest part of the whole judgment is that the big kahuna Windows XP is a huge step in further consolidating their monopoly, and the past issues have already become moot. Microsoft, as usual, sidesteps its legal troubles by reaching their tentacles further and more omniverously into PC users' lives. The company needs to be broken up if the government wants to ensure its citizens of freedom of choice and true innovation that only real competition can offer. Microsoft's strategy of using their deep pockets (thanks to an unbridled monopoly) to lobby on its behalf has obviously worked. Not only will users be stuck with Windows operating system, an office suite, and a browser, but all content delivery will be channeled through their proprietary formats (windows media files for music and video), and through their financial payment network. Our whole computing experience will be filtered through Micro soft.

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